



JUNE  
20/93

# Putting a FACE on our rural roots



## Tour grew on participants

Participants in the Middlemarch Women's Institute fund-raiser garden tour didn't let a few raindrops stand in their way Sunday as they toured seven stops of interest along Fingal Road including, above, the beautiful country garden of Willie and

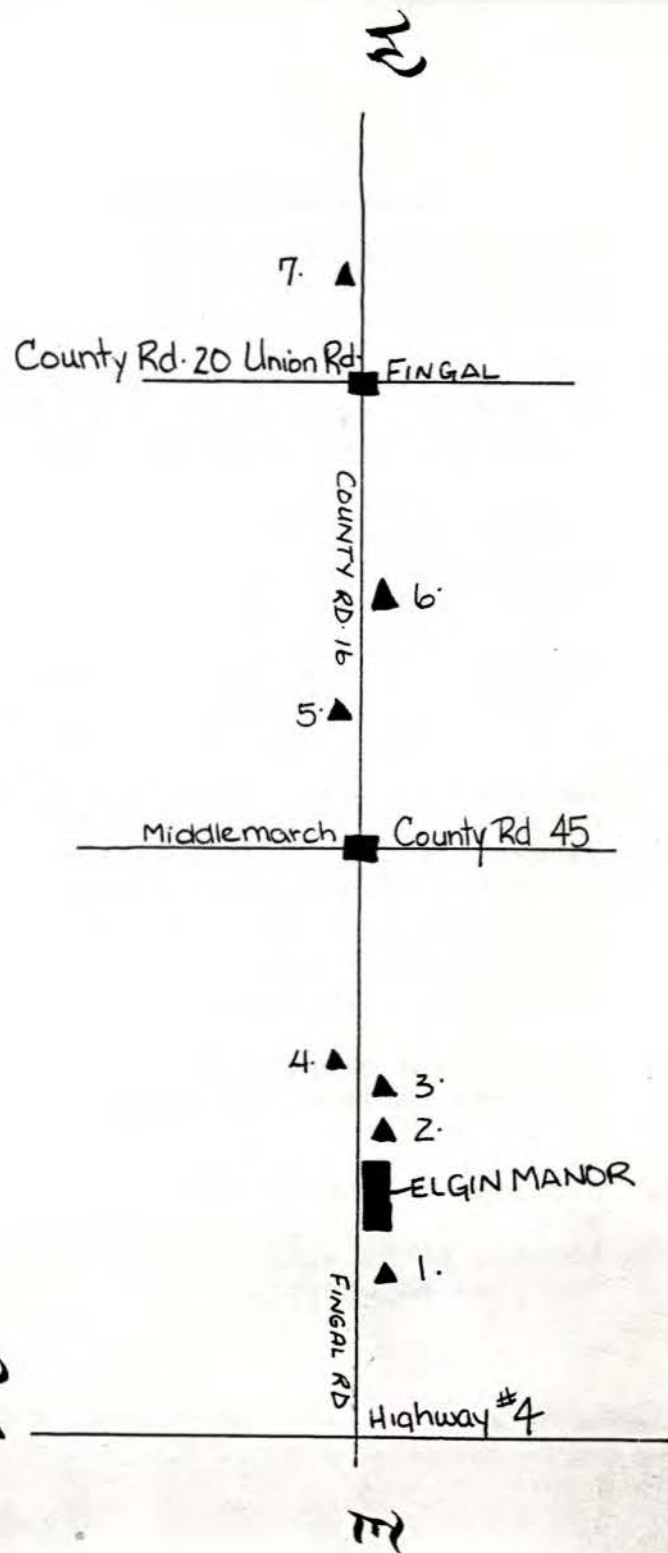
Joe Vandermaarel, seen here with WI member Lois Krupke, left. The Vandermaarels run a cash crop business now but years ago, they ran a vegetable farm: you can see the green thumb extended to the flower garden.

*Staff photo*



\* Green balloons mark garden homes.

Port Stanley



# Falbot Road Country Garden Tour

Sponsored by

Middlemarch Womens Institute

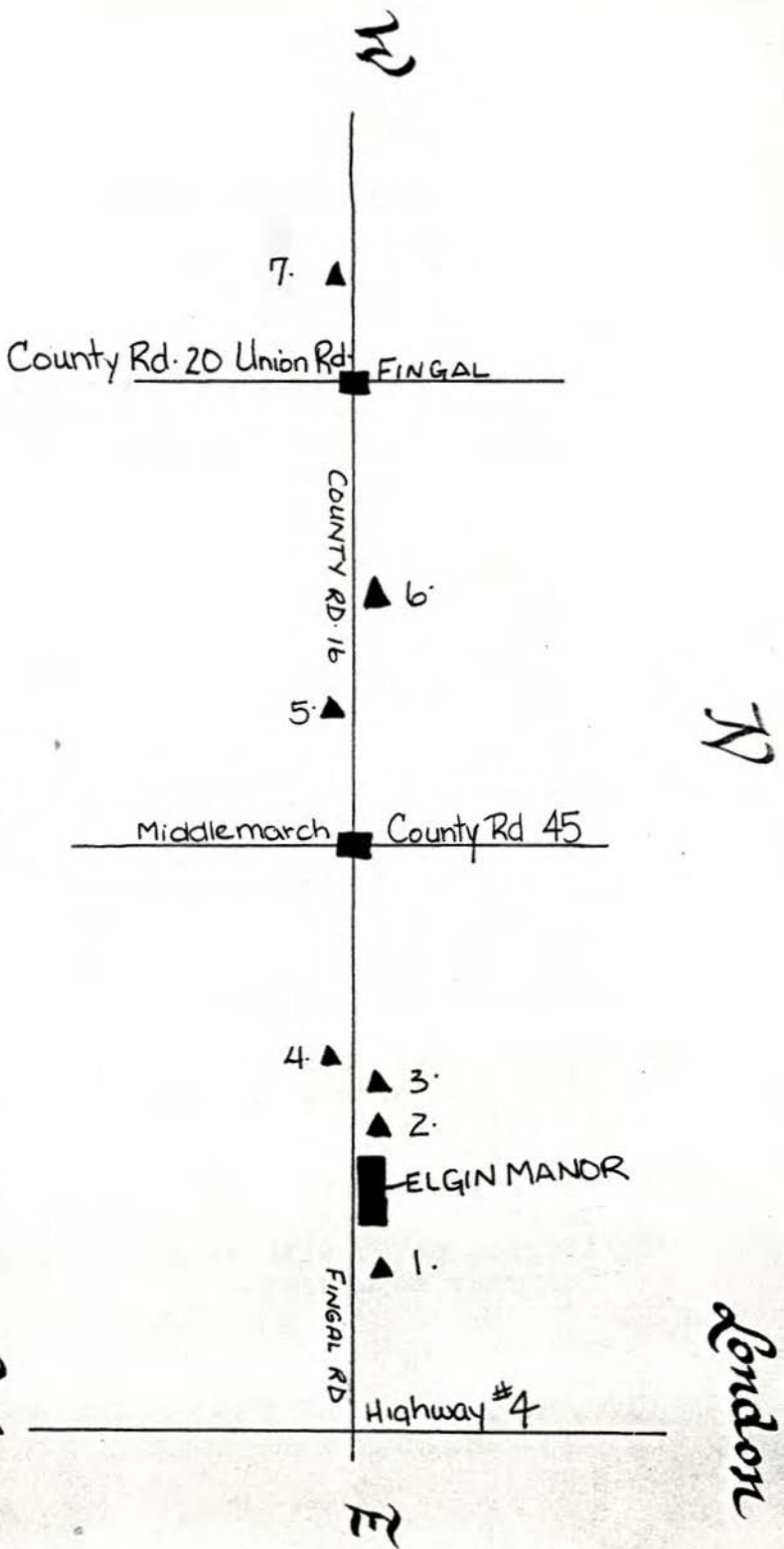
June 20<sup>th</sup> 1-5 p.m.  
rain date June 21<sup>st</sup> 1-5 p.m.

Tour along Fingal Road  
County Road 16  
St. Thomas  
7 stops of interest

Tickets: \$5.00 per person  
Children 12 and under free

Refreshments Available at Stop #5  
Tickets Available in advance  
or  
at the door. Call: 631-1784

\* Green balloons mark garden homes.





# Elgin woman named to Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame



**DOROTHY  
FUTCHER**  
... WI  
role  
honored

An Elgin County woman who was active in many facets of community life prior to her death in 1984, has been named to the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Dorothy E. Futcher is one of six, all deceased, who are to be inducted June 5 at the Ontario Agricultural Museum, Milton.

The Hall of Fame was created to recognize those who have made significant contributions to Ontario agriculture. To date, 68 men and women have been inducted and their likenesses, along with a citation, are displayed at the museum.

Those being honored along with

Mrs. Futcher are Duncan O. Bull, a Jersey cattle breeder and founder of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair; Charles Alfred Drury, Ontario's first minister of agriculture; Joseph Fleury Jr., founder of the Aurora Agricultural Works, a farm implement manufacturer; Helen Mae McKercher, who worked with the Federated Women's Institutes in food, nutrition and education; and Gerald Nelson Ruhnke, involved in establishing the soils department at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Mrs. Futcher is being recognized for her work with the Women's Institute and with a number of other organizations.

Her citation reads: "During her membership in the Women's Institute, Dorothy Futcher held executive positions at the local, county and provincial levels. Her lifelong concern with education, religion, history and the quality of rural life is reflected in her active involvement in many agricultural and community organizations."

Mrs. Futcher served as president of Middlemarch WI, West Elgin District, and as a director and president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, participating in two world conferences, in Toronto and Copenhagen. For her service, she was awarded a life membership by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Mrs. Futcher was a member of the board of directors of the Ontario Agricultural College and was later recognized for her contribution to agriculture with the Ontario Agricultural College Medal.

She was appointed by the province to the Archeological and Historic Sites Board and also served as a director of the Women's Division of the Royal Winter Fair.

Mrs. Futcher was founder and chairman of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum, and worked tirelessly for many years to develop the museum.

She enjoyed extensive travels with many friends of the Elgin Goodwill Tour and was named Woman of the

Year by St. Thomas University Women's Club at the Talbot Shivarree in 1971.

Mrs. Futcher was a member of First United Church and active member of the United Church Women.

Mrs. Futcher is survived by sons John E. and Allison H. Futcher and daughters Mrs. Isabel (Jud) Martin and Mrs. Robin (Roy) Jeffery. Her husband was J.R. Futcher, a prominent Elgin County farmer.

The Hall of Fame is open during regular business hours at the museum. The public is invited to the induction ceremony 2:30 p.m. June 5 and tickets can be purchased by contacting the Ontario Agricultural Museum.



# Local woman inducted into hall

By STUART LAIDLAW

T-J Staff Reporter

MILTON, Ont. — Were she still alive, Dorothy Futchter would have felt humble on Sunday, says her son Allison.

The Elgin County woman, who was

**DOROTHY FUTCHTER**

...worked

tirelessly



active in the Women's Institute and worked hard to improve the quality of rural life before she died in 1984, was inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame.

"She just loved a challenge," said Allison Futchter.

Mr. Futchter, his brother, John, and sisters Robin Jeffery and Isabel Martin attended a special ceremony at the museum in Milton, located about 50 kilometres west of Toronto. With the exception of Mrs. Jeffery, who now lives in Belleville, Ont., all the children still live in the St. Thomas area. They have all been looking forward to the day their mother would be honored.

"We've had it marked on our calendars for months. Rain or shine we were going to be here," said Mrs. Jeffery.

Mrs. Futchter was among six people to be honored for their work in support of Ontario agriculture.

"A very significant development in the 20th century has been the increasing role played by women in all facets of society, and agriculture is no different," Freeman McEwen, dean of the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, said in his speech during the ceremony.

Mrs. Futchter held executive titles in all levels of the Women's Institute, and was concerned about education, religion, history and the quality of life in the country throughout her life.

She was president of the Middlemarch Wome's Institute, West Elgin District, director and president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario and travelled to Copenhagen and Toronto to take part in two world conferences of the Association of Country Women of the World.

She was given the Ontario Agricultural College Medal after sitting for many years on the board of directors of the college, and was appointed by the province to the Archeological and Historical Sites Board. She also served as director of the women's division of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

She founded the Elgin County Pioneer Museum in St. Thomas in 1954 and put in many long hours to develop the facility. She served as its chairman from 1954 to 1980. Mrs. Futchter was named woman of the year by the St. Thomas University Women's Club in 1971 at the Talbot Shivarree.

A member of First United Church, Mrs. Futchter was an active member of the United Church Women. Her husband was J. R. Futchter, a prominent Elgin County farmer. Mrs. Jeffery said Mr. Futchter would have been proud of the recognition his wife had received.

"He was always very proud of what mother could do," she said.

Also inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame were Duncan Bull, a jersey cattle breeder and founder of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Charles Drury, Ontario's first agriculture minister, Joseph Fleury Jr., founder of Aurora Agricultural Works, a farm implements manufacturer, Helen McKercher, who worked in the Federated Women's Intitute, and Gerald Ruhnke, who helped establish the soils department at the Ontario Agricultural College.

For picture, see first page, second section.

**Ontario Agricultural  
Hall of Fame  
Association**

**Unveiling Ceremony**

❧ Program ❧

**June 5, 1988  
2:30 pm.**



**Ontario Agricultural  
Hall of Fame Assoc.  
Box 38, Milton, Ont.  
L9T 2Y3**

## Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Assoc.

### ❧ 1988 Inductees ❧

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Duncan O. Bull       | 1878-1950 |
| 2. Charles Alfred Drury | 1844-1905 |
| 3. Joseph Fleury Jr.    | 1832-1880 |
| 4. Dorothy E. Fitcher   | 1898-1984 |
| 5. Helen Mae McKercher  | 1911-1985 |
| 6. Gerald Nelson Ruhnke | 1898-1957 |

## 🌀 Agenda 🌀

CHAIRMAN: **Mr. Kenneth Lantz**

- |                                        |                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. PRELUDE OF MUSIC                    | <i>Organist: Mr. Glen Wicks</i>                                                              |
| 2. WELCOME                             |                                                                                              |
| 3. NATIONAL ANTHEM                     | O CANADA                                                                                     |
| 4. INVOCATION                          | <b>Rev. Fred Wilkes</b>                                                                      |
| 5. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER       | <b>Mrs. Cindy Lindsay</b><br><i>Member-Board of Directors</i>                                |
| 6. GUEST SPEAKER                       | <b>Dr. F.L. McEwen</b><br><i>Dean-Ontario Agricultural<br/>College, University of Guelph</i> |
| 7. RESPONSE                            | <b>Mr. Joseph Snyder</b><br><i>Vice President</i>                                            |
| 8. SOLOIST                             | <b>Mrs. Elaine McDougall</b>                                                                 |
| 9. UNVEILING CEREMONY                  | <b>Dr. Wm. A. Stewart</b><br><b>Mr. Joseph Snyder</b>                                        |
| 10. PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE | <b>Mary Robertson</b><br><i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>                                          |
| 11. CONCLUDING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN     |                                                                                              |





### ***Mother honored*** JUNE 1988

The children of Dorothy Futcher attended a ceremony at the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton, Ont. on Sunday during which their mother was inducted into the museum's Hall of

Fame for her work with the Federated Women's Institute. Reading the inscription on their mother's plaque are, from left, Isabel Martin, John Futcher, Robin Jeffery and Allison Futcher. - (T.I. Photo)







### INSCRIPTION ON THE PLAQUE

On this farm Capt. and Mrs. Neil " Storm " McAlpine, of Argyllshire, Scotland, settled in 1830. His generous action, after the Black Frost of June 25th, 1859, saved the settlement from famine and poverty. He provided seed wheat from his granary, at no cost - only to be repaid "*Bushel for Bushel*" in the following year.

This plaque is presented in recognition of such a generous act by the Elgin Historical Society.

The stone work was done by Lorne McLennan

The plaque was made by Matthew Foundry

Mr. & Mrs. Noble Tufford have permitted the memorial to be erected on their property.

This memorial was erected through the joint efforts of the Elgin Historical Society and Miss Bessie Silcox.



### BUSHEL FOR BUSHEL

Dedication of the Neil McAlpine Memorial  
Saturday, June 25, 1983  
at the Noble Tufford farm in Southwold  
lot 30, north, Talbot Road.



## PROGRAM

Douglas Budden—Piper, Branch 41, Royal Canadian  
Legion, St. Thomas  
Hugh J. Sims—Master of Ceremonies  
Nadyne Gooding—President of Elgin Historical Society  
Hymn: O God Our Help in Ages Past, led by Everitt Howlett

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### GREETINGS FROM:

Ronald K. McNeil—M.P.P. for Elgin  
Janet Golding—Alderman, City of St. Thomas  
Bud Marr—Warden of Elgin County and Deputy Reeve of  
Southwold

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### ADDRESS:

Dr. Harry S. Rodney—Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas

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### UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE:

Bessie Silcox and Nadyne Gooding

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### PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Dr. Harry S. Rodney  
Hymn: The Lord Is My Shepherd, led by Everitt Howlett

Refreshments courtesy of The Middlemarch Women's Institute  
Mrs. Noble Tufford, President  
Chairs—Courtesy of Mr. Grant Clutterbuck and the  
Fingal Optimist Club



The Neil McAlpine Family came to Southwold from Argylleshire, Scotland in 1830. On the 1st November 1830 Neil McAlpine purchased from Hugh Ferguson, lot 30 on the North side of Talbot Road. On 26 March 1834, he purchased from John Welter the South-West quarter of lot 31, and on 30 January 1846 he sold the North-West quarter of lot 30 to David Welter.

Neil McAlpine (1789-1875) was born in Kilmartin Parish, Argylleshire, Scotland, and married Mary Galbraith (1799-1882).

Their children were:

Isabella married Dan Cameron

Donald married Janet McGugan

John 1820-1892 married Catharine McColl 1823-1880

Margaret 1821-1878 married John McGregor 1813-1886

Nancy Ann 1823-1893 married Alex McCallum 1810-1896

Catharine 1825-1901 married Neil McCallum

Neil 1829-1916 married Mary Currie 1838-1919

Mary 1831-1879

Sarah Ann 1832-1894 married Malcolm MacAlpine

Hugh 1833-1916

Christina 1835-1922

These eleven children were named in Neil McAlpines' will.









